SPRING RANCHERS’ FORUM
Central Florida Livestock Agents’ Group
University of Florida IFAS Extension
Thursday, March 26, 2009
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

YARBOROUGH RANCHES
1355 Snow Hill Road, Geneva, FL
University Professors ~ On-Ranch Field Training
Field-Site Training

AGENDA

9:00 Arrival / Exhibitors Available
9:30 Welcome - Hosts: Dennis Mudge, CFLAG, IFAS Extension Agent, Orange & Seminole County; Imogene Yarborough, Yarborough Ranches
9:45 “Stubble Height Grazing”
10:15 “Soil Summer Annuals & Pasture Mgmt. Update”
11:00 “Spring Fertilization”
11:30 Conservation Trust
12:00 Steak Luncheon
12:45 “Hard to Control Weeds”
1:15 “Grazing Capacity”
1:30 “Haylage Opportunities”
1:45 “Tropical Soda Apple Control Update”
2:00 “FireWise on Your Farm”
2:15 “Fire Ant Control Update”
2:30 Evaluation

Pre-registration guarantees a steak lunch. Registration Fee is $12.

Please contact your County Extension Office no later than Thursday, March 20 to make reservations. Persons requiring special accommodations per the ADA should contact Dennis Mudge at least 48 hours in advance of the program. Make check payable to CFLAG. Additional donations for give-aways are $5 each. Local accommodations and directions available upon registration. For more information contact Ruth Howard at 407-254-9218.
JANUARY
Apply lime for summer crops.
Check for lice and treat, if necessary.
Control weeds in cool season pastures.
Begin grazing winter clover pastures when approximately 6 inches high.  Rye should be 12-18”.
Check mineral feeders.
Put bulls out for October calving season.
Make up breeding herd lists, if using single sire herds.
Give bulls extra feed and care so they will be in condition for breeding season.
Buy only performance tested bulls with superior records.
Discuss herd health with your veterinarian and outline a program for the year.
Review herd health program with your veterinarian regularly.
Carry a pocket notebook to record heat, breeding abnormalities, discharges, abortions, retained placentas, difficult calvings, and other data.
Observe cow herd for calving difficulties.
Watch for grass tetany on winter pastures.
Increase magnesium levels in mineral mixes, if grass tetany has been previous problem (if you are not already using a high magnesium mineral).
Examine bulls for breeding soundness and semen quality prior to the breeding season.
Vaccinate cows and heifers against vibriosis and leptospirosis prior to the breeding season.

FEBRUARY
Check and fill mineral feeders.
Put bulls out with breeding herd.
Work calves (identify, implant with growth stimulant, vaccinate, etc.)
Make sure lactating cows are receiving an adequate level of energy.
Calves for signs of respiratory diseases.
Cull cows that failed to calve while prices are seasonally up.
Check for lice and treat, if needed.

MARCH
Prepare land for summer crops and begin grazing warm season permanent pastures.
Check and fill mineral feeder.
Observe bulls for condition and success and deworm cows, as needed.
Make sure calves are healthy and making good weight gains.
Hang forced-use dust bags by April 1st for external parasite control, or use insecticide impregnated ear tags.
Identify, vaccinate, implant, and work late calves.
Put bulls out on March 1st for calving season to start on December 9th.
Remove bulls on March 22nd to end calving season on January 1st.

Set Aside the Dates . . .

58th Annual
Beef Cattle Short Course
April 29 - May 1, 2009

This program is presented by the Department of Animal Sciences, Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida and provides conference style learning in Gainesville. Visit the 2009 Florida Beef Cattle Short Course webpage for conference updates or to register online: http://www.animal.ufl.edu/extension/beef/short.shtml